

9. The system of claim 1, wherein the document permissions module processes rules for dynamically changing the user access permissions.

10. A method for coauthoring a document, the method comprising:

opening a document that is organized into sections, each section representing a part of the document, the document displaying user access permissions for one or more of the sections of the document, and the document displaying names of users who are editing one or more of the sections of the document;

performing operations on one or more of the sections of the document, the operations being consistent with user access permissions granted for the sections of the document;

identifying updates to the document that can be shared with other users so that the updates to the document are shared with other users; and

identifying one or more users from which document updates to one or more of the sections of the document are to be obtained, the one or more users selected from the names displayed on the document, so that the document updates are obtained from the document server and displayed in appropriate sections of the document.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein user access permissions are selected from the group consisting of full control, read/write, review only, comment only and read only.

12. The method of claim 10, further comprising displaying the user access permissions and the names of the one or more users via user interface controls displayed adjacent to sections of the document.

13. The method of claim 10, further comprising enforcing user access permissions when the client is disconnected from a network.

14. The method of claim 10, further comprising defining rules on the document for dynamically updating the user access permissions.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein the rules are defined via user interface controls located adjacent to sections of the document.

16. A method for coordinating the coauthoring of a document at a document server, the method comprising:

dividing a document into a plurality of sections, each of the sections including a paragraph of the document;

storing user access permissions to each of the sections of the document for a plurality of users of the document,

the user access permissions defining an extent to which each of the plurality of users can view, edit and comment on the sections of the document;

storing the names of users who are accessing each of the sections of the document;

rendering an instance of the document to the users of the document, the rendered document including access controls that indicate user access permissions for each of the sections of the document, the rendered document including the names of the users who are editing each of the sections of the document, the rendered document including action controls providing actions including requesting updates to the sections from the users and designating that updates a user made to the sections are made available to other users;

storing updates to the document made by the users of the document;

receiving a request from a first user to share updates to the document made by the first user with other users;

in response to the request from the first user, enabling the document updates made by the first user to be shared with other users;

receiving a request from a second user to receive updates to the sections of the document made by other users; and

in response to the request from the second user, rendering an instance of the document for the second user that includes the shared updates to the sections requested by the second user, the shared updates being rendered in new document sections located directly above the requested document sections.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the user access permissions are selected from the group consisting of full control, read/write, review only, comment only and read only.

18. The method of claim 16, further comprising dynamically updating the user access permissions for users of the sections of the document when the first user indicates that edits to a section of the document are completed.

19. The method of claim 18, further comprising updating the user access permissions using a set of rules stored on the document server.

20. The method of claim 19, further comprising redacting certain of the sections of the document that the second user does not have permission to view.

\* \* \* \* \*